

there are more black doctors, lawyers, judges and elected officials than ever before. What we know today is that there is more equality and more opportunity for all children.

But what we don't know, what we still question is whether we have really achieved the inclusion, equality and diversity in our schools that the Court intended when it struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine and required the desegregation of schools across America. I do not believe we have met the promise of Brown yet.

I am concerned that many public schools in Arkansas and around the country remain segregated by race and class, still unequal in regard to performance and resources. Today, a fourth-grade Hispanic child is only one-third as likely to read at the same level as a fourth grade white child. Only fifty percent of African-Americans are finishing high school, and only 18 percent are graduating from college.

We must do better, and President Bush and the Congress can do better by keeping the promises made to parents and students when it passed the No Child Left Behind Act. We must live up to this promise, and provide every child access to a quality public education. Daisy Bates, the Little Rock Nine and countless civil rights leaders did not endure hardship and sacrifice for us to fail now.

Mr. President, on this landmark anniversary, let us stand together to celebrate how far we have come. But let us also acknowledge the problems that stand in the way to a better education for all children. And let us commit ourselves to preparing our children for today's expectations and tomorrow's challenges.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On June 1, 2000, Gary William Mick, 25, pleaded guilty to first-degree murder, attempted murder, and armed robbery after admitting that he murdered a gay man and tried to kill another because he believed gay men were "evil." In the first attack, a New Jersey man was bludgeoned to death with a claw hammer. Mick met his second victim, a dentist, at a bar. There, he had dinner with him and went home with him. Mick later attacked the man with a knife, a struggle ensued, and the victim escaped. Mick told police that a childhood incident caused him to hate homosexuals.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement

Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### A COLOSSAL FAILURE OF WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP IN IRAQ

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, according to the Washington Post, a recent poll by the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, which is, for all intents and purposes, an entity of the U.S. Government, showed that 80 percent of the Iraqis surveyed reported a lack of confidence in the CPA and 82 percent disapprove of the U.S. and allied militaries in Iraq.

I mention this for two reasons.

First, I remember when, less than 2 months ago, much was made by administration officials and several Senators of a February poll which suggested that Iraqis strongly supported the U.S. occupation. They held it up as proof that our strategy was working, even if they could not explain what the strategy was.

To quote one of my friends on the other side of the aisle, who spoke on April 8:

[I] noticed the BBC/ABC poll results in Iraq, which are fascinating. I only wish Americans were as upbeat about America as Iraqis are about Iraq. If you watched U.S. TV every day, you would think there was nothing but bad things happening in Iraq . . . But, in fact, in the BBC/ABC poll, which was taken from February 9th to February 28th, in answer to the question, "How are things going today, good or bad, in Iraq?" Overall, 70 percent said good, 29 percent said bad. . . And in terms of the optimism factor, how they will be a year from now, 71 percent of Iraqis thought things would be better a year from now . . .

He concluded by saying that this encouraging news was thanks to the leadership of the President of the United States.

Whatever the accuracy of that February poll, the CPA's recent poll indicates that far more Iraqis today oppose what we are doing in Iraq. The CPA's poll also shows that more than half of Americans surveyed oppose the President's policy.

This latest poll also compels us to ask why so many of the people we sought to liberate, and did liberate from the brutality of Saddam, turned against us so quickly. And why so many Americans are questioning the President's decision to go to war.

There are many reasons, the genesis of which dates back to the President's fateful decision to shift gears from fighting al-Qaida, which had attacked us, to overthrowing Saddam Hussein, who had not attacked us and who apparently had no plan or ability to.

That decision, followed by a remarkable series of miscalculations and misguided policies, has enmeshed our troops in an ill-fated, costly war from which neither the President, nor anyone else in his Administration, appears to have the faintest idea of how to extricate ourselves.

Let's review the history.

After September 11, there was nearly universal support for retaliation against al-Qaida. There was widespread sympathy and support for the United States from around the world. But then the President, encouraged by a handful of Pentagon and White House officials, most notably the Vice President, who were fixated on Saddam Hussein, changed course. And what followed, I believe, has very possibly increased the risk of terrorism against Americans.

We remember when someone in the administration "gave currency to a fraud," to quote George Will, by putting in the President's 2003 State of the Union speech that Iraq was trying to buy uranium in Africa.

This administration repeatedly, insistently and unrelentingly justified pre-emptive war by insisting that Saddam Hussein not only had weapons of mass destruction but was hell-bent on using them against us and our allies.

Administration officials, led by Vice President CHENEY, repeatedly tried to link Saddam Hussein to 9/11 in order to build public support for the war, though there never was any link—none.

Truth tellers in the administration—like General Shinseki and Lawrence Lindsay—were either ridiculed or hounded out of their jobs because they had the temerity to suggest realistic estimates for the number of soldiers and amount of money it would take to do the job right in Iraq.

Incredibly, there was no real plan, despite a year-long, \$5 million study by the State Department, to deal with the widespread looting that greeted our soldiers once Saddam had fallen—doubling or tripling the cost of reconstruction, and leaving open the gates to stockpiles of weapons and ammunition that have been used with deadly results against our soldiers.

We remember President Bush flying onto the aircraft carrier and declaring "Mission Accomplished" when, in fact, the worst of it was ahead.

Two months later, the President taunted Iraqi resistance fighters to "Bring It On!" while our troops were still in harm's way and were fending off ambushes and roadside attacks every day and every night.

Some of our closest allies and friends, like Mexico and Canada, and even those countries Secretary Rumsfeld called "Old Europe," were belittled and alienated because they disagreed with our strategy of pre-emptive war—countries whose diplomatic and intelligence and military support we so desperately need today.

That sorry chronology has brought us to where we are today. Each day that passes, more Iraqis seem to turn against us, threatening the mission and morale of our troops.

The latest episode in this misguided adventure is the Abu Ghraib prison scandal. It is tragic for many reasons, but none more so than the harm it has caused to the image of our Armed